

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /149 W
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R 131731Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5444
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04932

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, BE
SUBJECT: LOS: APPROACHES TO SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 58044

SUMMARY: WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO LOCATE HENRI NOLAERD
MARCH 13 AND DISCUSS WITH HIM QUESTION POSED REFTEL. HE
GAVE US PRELIMINARY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS AND COUNTERED
WITH TWO QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. NOLAERD RAISED WITH US, AS HE HAD WITH MR. BERLIND
IN NEW YORK, THE QUESTION OF THE EFFECT ON ZAIRIAN COBALT
PRICES OF SEABED COBALT MINING. HE ALSO SAID THAT SEABED
MINING OF COPPER WOULD BE A SIMILAR ISSUE FOR ZAIRE. IN
REGARD TO COBALT, NOLAERD TOLD US THAT PRIOR TO DISCUSSING
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A SEABED MINING REGIME WITH ZAIRE, WE SHOULD HAVE
AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT CAN BE DONE TO
PROTECT ZAIRIAN COBALT REVENUES. (HE DID NOT SEE LIKELY
PERTUBATIONS IN ZAIRIAN COPPER PRICES DUE TO SEABED
MINING).

2. NOLAERD SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS STRONGLY

OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO LIMITING SEABED PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO AVOID DISTURBING EXISTING MARKETS. ON THE DUTCH PROPOSAL TO USE THE AUTHORITY'S FUNDS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATIONS, HE TOOK A MORE NUANCED POSITION. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT TO USE THE AUTHORITY'S FUNDS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO ONE COUNTRY WOULD REDUCE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS.

3. NOLAERD, THEREFORE, ASKED US FOR THE USG'S OPINION ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DECIDING ON THE WISDOM OF A JOINT U.S.-BELGIAN APPROACH TO ZAIRE AS OUTLINED STATE 013601:

(A) WHAT DOES THE USG BELIEVE CAN AND SHOULD BE DONE TO PROTECT ZAIRIAN COBALT PRICES? WHAT SHOULD THE USG AND GOB OFFER TO ZAIRE IN THIS REGARD?

(B) WHAT IS THE USG POSITION ON THE DUTCH PROPOSAL TO USE THE AUTHORITY'S REVENUES FROM SEABED MINING OF COBALT TO COMPENSATE ZAIRE'S POSSIBLE LOSS OF REVENUES FROM COBALT MINING? CHAMBERS

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